

REMARKS

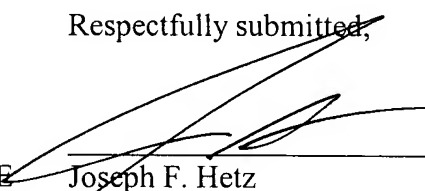
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on January 13, 2006. During that interview, U.S. Patent No. 6,010,512 to Chu et al. was discussed, and it was agreed that each raking portion in Chu et al. does not extend away from only one side of a longitudinal plane defined by the sheath. In particular, it was agreed that, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, the top and bottom "raking portions" in Figure 3 in Chu et al. are in the plane of the paper, while the middle "raking portion" in Figure 3 is perpendicular to the plane of the paper. Accordingly, each asserted raking portion in Chu et al. does not extend away from only one side of a longitudinal plane defined by the sheath because two of those portions are in the longitudinal plane. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed that the rejections against Claim 1-6 would be withdrawn, that all pending claims would be allowed, and that a Notice of Allowance would be mailed.

The Examiner later phoned the undersigned attorney and requested that Claim 1 be amended for clarity. Specifically, the Examiner requested that Claim 1 be amended to recite that all of the raking portions extend away from only one side of a same longitudinal plane defined by the sheath. Applicant has made that change in this Amendment.

Dated: January 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4719



Joseph F. Hetz
Reg. No. 41,070
Attorney for Applicant